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19 August 1982

HFAC

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: HFAC Africa Subcommittee Briefing on Kenya and the OAU Meeting  
of 19 August 1982

1. [ ] C/OALAA/DDI, John Helgenson [ ]  
and [ ] OALAA/DDI, briefed Congressmen Arlen Erdahl (R., MN),  
Howard Wolpe (D., MI) and Stephen Solarz (D., NY) of the House Foreign Affairs  
Subcommittee on Africa on Kenya and the OAU meeting.

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2. John Helgenson began the briefing by discussing the coup, who was responsible and the backlash. The following questions were raised and discussed:

Wolpe: Were the civilian politicians linked with the coup?  
What was the Government's response to the coup?  
Could you articulate the grievances underlying the  
coup?  
Did you focus on the broader issues that the coup  
was demonstrating against?  
What is the assessment at the moment on the economic  
problems?  
Does the Government have the capacity to take positive  
steps to improve the economic problems?

3. Wolpe stated that when he was in Kenya there was no hint by the Embassy last August of a coup. Were we caught off guard? Wolpe further stated that the Committee wasn't happy with the Air Force sale and wanted to know what is the military threat and does it justify Kenya's build-up?

4. Solarz came in and asked again about the tensions and problems leading up to the coup. Weissman asked why did Moi arrest the entire Air Force? Are you sure 90 percent were Ugans?

5. OAU - John Helgenson gave overview

Solarz: Why were the Moroccans so successful in keeping other  
states away from the meeting?  
Did we try to support Morocco and boycott the meeting?

6. Then Solarz raised questions about Angola and Namibia. [ ]  
discussed this generally but suggested State Department be contacted.

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[ ]  
Legislative Liaison

cc: [ ]

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